FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN REVIEWS GOVERNMENT POLICY ON PROBLEMS

PY241929 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday denied his government would order emergency wage increases before the year-end but said it was studying some kind of protection for the unemployed. During an hour-long press conference with Government House newsmen, the president said his government would continue its policy of maintaining a growth of real wages and added some financial operations were being studied in the wake of the sudden increase of interest rates.

Other main points touched on by the president were:

There was no urgency for constitutional reforms, which anyway should be studied in a climate of peace and tranquillity which Argentines had not quite achieved so far. Alfonsin favoured a presidential mandate of six years without reelection, although he considered a proposal for a four-year mandate allowing reelection merited respect.

There would be an adjustment at the end of the year to bring real wages up to date and a policy would be maintained of a yearly increase of six percent.

The president sympathized with the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo but did not agree with their political objectives which he said did not favour national interests. On the possibility of there being missing people still alive, the government had not found any and this was its final reply.

Inflation from October 1984 to October 1985 must be brought down to a level of 300 percent per annum not only with monetarist measures but also working investments.

The government wanted to replace expenditure on food for soldiers with expenditure on electronic devices to convert the current "pachydermatous" Armed Forces into smaller, but far more efficient and speedier units.

The opposition of the Justicialist party during Alfonsin's first year in office had not been obstructionist.

The meetings on the social contract had been very satisfactory and solutions would have to be found to define action plans during 1985 to bring down inflation, increase exports and meet demands for social justice. There would still be difficulties during 1985 but it would be a better year than 1984 and 1986 would be a better year still.

The attitude of the Rio de Janeiro city council members in granting an award to Mario Firmenich was absurd, incomprehensible and even aggressive; the government did not consider Firmenich a political prisoner because there were no political prisoners in Argentina.

The government was working intensely on the Malvinas issue.

HIGH-RANKING ARMY APPOINTMENTS DISCLOSED

PY240217 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2153 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (TELAM) -- The National Executive Branch has appointed Brigadier General Angel Mario Medone as commander of the IV Corps, Brigadier General Leopoldo Hector Flores as commander of the V Corps, and General Clodomiro Rufo Marquez, of the Army Social Benefits Institute as the director general of the Quartermaster Corps, according to information officially released this afternoon.

The appointments were signed by President Raul Alfonsin and Defense Minister Raul Borras and they state in their instructions that the abovementioned positions in the Army have been filled in keeping with Article 116 of Army regulations from (?law No) 19101 dealing with military personnel.

LORENZO MIGUEL HOLDS OFF ACCEPTING PARTY POST

PY211630 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Dec (DYN) -- Metalworker leader Lorenzo Miguel has announced that he will not assume the post of second vice president of the Justicialist Party to which he was appointed during the party's last congress until the court declares the congress legal.

Yesterday Miguel reiterated that his acceptance of the post to which he has been appointed is subject "to the decision of my comrades in the Metalworkers Union [UOM] and the 62 Organizations," stating that once the legitimacy of the congress held last weekend is ratified, he will "step aside if this will contribute to unity."

Yesterday the UOM secretariat held its first meeting after its appointment last week and, although no information was released regarding the subjects discussed on this occasion, Lorenzo Miguel issued a statement saying:

"My attitude in the service of Peronism and the workers movement has never been influenced by the political circumstances of the moment. I have never been, nor will I ever be, an obstacle to the much-desired unity of the entire Peronist party and, therefore, with the support of the 62 Organizations, I decided a few months ago to step aside to allow the Justicialist Party's reorganization under fellow party member Isabel Peron's leadership.

"[Words indistinct] the party congress honored me with a new post, but my acceptance was subject, and I made it clear at that time, to the decision of my comrades in the UOM and the 62 Organizations, whose endorsement is the basis of my position in the labor union sector.

"However, I still appreciate the support received last Saturday, 15 December, from all those who were present at the beginning of the party congressional sessions, and for which I am deeply grateful.

"Now, in view of the attempts to question the legitimacy of the congress, I want to make it clear that I will not assume any post whose origin is questioned.

"Meanwhile, I will maintain the decision to step aside if that will contribute to unity, but I will assume the post once the legitimacy of the congress is confirmed. However, this decision will by no means modify my solidarity with those comrades who have been elected to head the various departments of the organization.

"I await the court ruling without any personal interest, deeply convinced that once passions have subsided we will find a mature and renewed Peronist party with firm doctrines."

BRIEFS

AIR FORCE ASSIGNMENT -- Cordoba, 17 Dec (TELAM) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Major General Teodoro Waldner today installed Air Force Brigadier Enrique Ventura as director of Air Force Materiel. Ventura replaces Brigadier Cesar Carreras. [Excerpts] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1648 GMT 17 Dec 84 PY]

FRG-MADE SUBMARINE ARRIVES -- Mar del Plata, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- Navy Captain Roberto Luis Pertusio today presided over the ceremony marking the arrival in Mar del Plata of the new submarine Santa Cruz built by the FRG at the Syssen Nordseewerke shipyards. The Santa Cruz has thus joined the Argentire naval fleet. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1624 GMT 14 Dec 84 PY]

LIBYA SEEKS MILITARY COOPERATION, PURCHASES

PY251158 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Dec 84 p 7

[Excerpts] Libyan Defense Minister Colonel Abu Baker [as published] will officially visit Brazil early in 1985 to examine ways to reinvigorate the military cooperation between the two countries. He will meet Brazilian military ministers and Itamaraty officials. The government of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is interested in developing cooperation in several sectors, especially in the naval sector, both civilian and military, according to a revelation made to O ESTADO by high military industry sources.

Colonel Abu Baker himself admitted that military cooperation with Brazil can be beneficial for his country, including for the modernization of the Libyan forces and technological exchange. Libyan military institutions are dependent on foreign industry and, in the wake of political problems, they no longer have the support of the United States and France which used to supply them with military materiel.

Colonel Abu Baker will meet with the military ministers and will visit military industry installations in Brazil, including the Rio de Janeiro Navy Shipyard. According to military industry executives, his visit should contribute to smoothing out the problems created by the landing of four Libyan planes transporting arms in Brazilian territory last year. The planes' crews had reported that they were transporting medical supplies. Military cooperation with Libya will not be limited to the transfer of technology to that country but will also include negotiations for the sale of airplanes, armaments, and warships that Brazil can export. Previous negotiations only included army war materiel in the sale of armaments to Libya but there are now prospects in the naval area and the Navy is not going to put obstacles in the way of the transfer of technology. The same thing will happen in the aerospace and armaments research sectors. Libyan officials have admitted that Libyan interest in military cooperation with Brazil will not be restricted to simple negotiations over armaments; there is interest in the transfer of technology. The naval sector has increased its capacity during the administrations of Ministers Barros Nunes and Geraldo Henning. Therefore, there are now good prospects for negotiating the sale of warships not only to the Middle East but also to other regions. Brazil already has the technology to build highly sophisticated ships such as frigates, training ships, and corvettes.

NEVES CONSIDERING MILITARY MINISTERS APPOINTMENTS

PY251226 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Democratic Alliance presidential candidate Tancredo Neves is already in the process of appointing his future military ministers. He has not yet decided whether he will appoint them before or after the trip he will make to Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, and the United States a week after his election at the Electoral College, reporter Jomar Morais has said. Three names are mentioned in the Army as candidates to replace Army Minister Walter Pires: General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, commander of the 3d Army, who is regarded as the leading candidate; General Ivan Souza Mendes, chief of the Army Engineering and Communications Department; and General Ademar da Costa Machado, military commander of the Amazonia. Three names are also being mentioned in the Air Force as candidates to replace Air Minister Oelio Jardim de Mattos. They are: General Luis Felipe, chief of the Civil Aeronautics Department, whose candidacy has been endorsed by Jardim de Mattos himself; General Dioclecio Siqueira, a member of the Superior Military Court; and General Octavio Julio Moreira Lima, chief of the General Support Command.

Although Neves has yet to meet with Navy Minister Alfredo Karam to discuss the issue, there are three candidates to replace him as Navy minister: Admiral Rafael de Azevedo Branco, chief of the Navy Staff; Henrique Saboia, chief of the Navy Personnel Department; and Jose Maria do Amaral Oliveira, commander of Naval Operations. The name of General Reynaldo Melo de Almeida, retired, is persistently mentioned as the future chief of the National Intelligence Service.

MALUF'S CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR ADMITS DEFEAT

PY241650 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1555 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Calim Eid, coordinator of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] candidate's campaign, has admitted the defeat of Paulo Maluf and wished a good government for Tancredo Neves. He also proposed that the PDS members exercise constructive opposition after 15 March 1985.

LIBERAL FRONT PARTY ISSUES FOUNDING MANIFESTO

PY242139 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Dec 84 p 6

[Text] The text of the manifesto issued by the Liberal Front Party (PFL), which was founded on the afternoon of 19 December in a ceremony held in the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia, is published below:

We who sign this manifesto, fully exercising our duties and responsibilities as free and democratic citizens, are gathered here to found the Liberal Front Party for the purpose of achieving the people's desires and promoting the changes society wants.

The time of reconstructing democracy should be the time of reconciliation. This is indispensable to overcome the great difficulties affecting us. There is no reason to revive antagonisms that have been overcome by new realities.

We must now stay on course with the powerful current of hope and trust that the political opening has brought to the country. Some of the fundamental concepts of our political ideology are the following:

1. The party's main commitment is to liberty in all its expressions. Therefore, we will fight any demonstration of authoritarianism or restrictions of liberty.

2. In the same manner, we will fight centralization, which is the chronic illness of our country's political-administrative organization and which is not the proper answer to our urgent and various problems.

3. The process of the concentration of power that has taken place in this country over the years has seriously affected federalism, the independence of the state branches, and the social and economic dynamics. It is absolutely necessary to immediately start reversing this process and to return to the federal units the powers and resources which were gradually transferred to the federal government.

4. Above everything, it is imperative to set free the Brazilian citizen's immense creative energies, which have historically been repressed by centralization and statism. The great revolution that should take place in this country, besides decentralization, should be releasing free initiative in all fields, in the political, social, and economic fields. We must promote, by all means, community participation in order to give opportunities for expressing our rich diversity.

5. This broad liberalization process includes protecting citizens from suffocating bureaucracy, fiscal greed, and excessive government intervention in the economy. However, we believe that there are problems and differences that cannot be properly solved by free market rules. A legitimate place exists, including within the social field, for government action that does not harm but preserves freedom.

6. We are concerned over the uncontrolled growth of government business activity, which has surpassed the necessary limits. Without neglecting national interests, government enterprises have to be transferred to the private sector with an eye to strengthening national private enterprises. Government companies should always be under the control of the society.

7. We uphold social interests over individual interests. Within the humanistic view of our ideology, the final beneficiary of any social activity is man as an individual, who should be protected in order to maintain his liberty, dignity, and integrity. Therefore the development we proclaim will be at the service of man. We reject any proposal for development that might transfer the lessening of social differences to a distant and indefinite future.

8. Our party is committed to change. A nation in which the majority of the population still suffers from essential deficiencies in the areas of food, health, education, and housing is certainly a nation in which there is much to be changed, in addition to what it is necessary to preserve. The Brazilian people are clamoring for essential reforms, and we will struggle with them to bring these reforms about peacefully, but without compromises that will delay or obstruct these changes.

9. We reaffirm our loyal dedication to the national interest, as do the citizens of countries that are sufficiently conscious of such interest. We consider it sufficiently important to preserve our identity and culture, to keep the process of development under national control, and strive for a gradual reduction in our foreign dependency, including in the technological field. But we still will keep our windows open to the world, where interdependence is increasing and isolationism is disappearing.

10. The nation's development is an imperative need, and for us it not only constitutes a general aspiration but a powerful motivating force. Brazilians reject any form of stagnation or recession. As a sovereign country that is conscious of its responsibilities, Brazil will not tolerate any type of pressure or imposition that might jeopardize its future, its development, its social peace, and its opportunity to guarantee jobs for its people. We will struggle to guarantee the workers freedom to form organizations, fair salaries, food, social security, medical assistance, leisure, dignified housing, protection against unemployment, and other conditions that will make their lives more human. We will also struggle to lessen the disparities in regional development. The northeast is a national priority.

11. Government is the practice of an essentially ethical activity. The success of government action is predicated on trust, credibility, and participation. Our party assumes a staunch commitment to reestablish these preconditions and to rigorously observe norms of austerity and honesty in the management of public affairs.

12. Being a pluralist, democratic, and open party, the Liberal Front Party will struggle for the reestablishment of direct elections and for the writing of a new constitution that will strengthen democratic institutions and will enshrine the changes being demanded.

We call on all Brazilians to join us in this walk toward freedom, democracy, development, and affirmation of the national sovereignty. These ideas will be submitted for debate prior to the definitive approval of a party program as required by law.

Brasilia, 19 December 1984

CUADRA ON BOMBINGS; TIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES

PY212120 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] At the end of a coordination meeting presided over by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra indicated that there is as yet no serious information on the kidnapping of LA NACION Deputy Director Sebastiano Bertolone, pointing out that although there have been some telephone calls and notes there is uncertainty about their veracity. Minister Cuadra indicated that during the coordination meeting a number of reports on the status of order and security throughout the country were discussed and that some of the measures designed to guarantee public order and security have been reinforced in the areas where terrorists are concentrating their actions.

Asked about some attacks registered over the past few hours, the minister said that there have been some bomb attacks to prevent the normal supply of electric power to the population. He added that a rather serious (?incident) occurred in San Clemente locality in the seventh region, the details of which will be disclosed in the next few hours, and another at the head of the Maipo River Gorge.

Details on Powerline Bombings

PY221325 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] The National Social Communications Agency has reported on the planting of bombs under high-tension powerline pylons. A report says that on 20 December a bomb damaged the base of the high-tension pylon on (El Chivato) Hill in San Jose de Maipo District. The report adds that the pylon was left hanging on one of the base's four metal legs without causing any power cut.

Unknown individuals also set off bombs at the high-tension pylon located at San Clemente in Bajo Lircay in the Seventh Region. Security personnel who went there found another bomb in the same pylon which had not yet exploded. According to a preliminary report, the damage caused to the Bajo Lircay pylon amount to 3 milliin pesos. The Dinacos report adds that the collapse of the pylon did not affect the normal electricity supply.

LA NACION DEPUTY DIRECTOR RELEASED BY KIDNAPPERS

PA260335 Paris AFP in Spanish 0234 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 26 Dec (AFP) -- The deputy director of the official daily LA NACION, Sebastiano Bertolone, was freed today after having been held captive for 7 days by an armed commando unit of the Manuel Rodriquez Patriotic Front (FPMR), according to a report from that clandestine subversive organization. In a communique issued at 2400 GMT on Tuesday to the national and international press and left in various cafes and restaurants in downtown Santiago, Chile, the FPMR pointed out that "today, the Chilean people scored a historic victory. The regime was defeated all along the line."

The FPMR added: "After several days in which the government withheld information about the kidnapping of the deputy director of the daily LA NACION, Sebastiano Bertolone -- risking his life and not caring for the suffering of his family -- the regime was forced to admit and report our action on the front pages of the country's mail dailies This broke the censorship and the silence of the press, which was the main objective of our action."

The FPMR continued: "With that, we consider that we have fully fulfilled the objectives of our action, which were: First, to defeat the press censorship, forcing the regime to release the news of our Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front. Second, to announce our first year of struggle and combat. Third, to effectively show our solidarity with those affected by press censorship, particularly suspended reporters and media. Fourth, to defeat the government and its repressive forces, as they could not find Bertolone and defeat our action."

The FPMR added: "Considering the above, and in deference to the appeals of the Catholic Church and the journalists association (a labor organization), with whom we are in full solidarity, a few hours ago we released Sebastiano Bertolone."

The subversive organization noted that "in the next few hours Mr Bertolone will return home safe and sound, without having suffered any type of pressure, which clearly marks the difference between our actions and the terrorist methods of the security services." In addition, the FPMR said: "The people of Chile can look ahead with confidence. The actions of our front are becoming more effective and successful every day. We have shown that the regime can be defeated."

However, by 0215 GMT, newspaperman Sebastiano Bertolone, 38, had not reached home, according to a statement made to AFP by his wife, Jimena Barrales, who received a call from the kidnappers. Other press reports indicated that Bertolone had been released at approximately 2000 GMT on Tuesday, in the northern sector of the city. The newspaperman was reportedly at a security service office, possibly in Borgono, where he was being questioned on the details of his kidnapping on Tuesday 18 December.

By 0218 GMT, General Pinochet military regime still had not said anything about the announcement made by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, which the Chilean authorities link to the outlawed Communist Party of Chile, PCCh.

On Monday, when the government unofficially admitted that the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front had kidnapped Bertolone, it said: "Six days after the kidnapping of the outstanding journalist, it is obvious once more, that communism does not hesitate to use the most abominable methods to achieve its objectives."

Meanwhile, Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno, archbishop of Santiago, made an appeal to the kidnappers on Monday "to release Bertolone on Christmas night." Last Saturday, Bertolone's wife, Jimena Barrales, asked the authorities to comply with the demand of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, which is asking for the publication of a subversive document to commemorate the organization's first anniversary. The document, which was sent to the local and international news media, said among other things that "the people must employ all means of struggle, including violence, which is legitimate when they are defending their rights."

After enumerating the subversive activities carried out during the past 12 months in the country, the Manuel Rodriquez Patriotic Front said: "The people are increasing the organizational and technical aspects of the paramilitary struggle. They are learning to fight in the terrain in which the regime feels invincible. They are using the arms available or those that they can make."

Deputy Director's Comments

PY261213 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Excerpt] LA NACION Deputy Director Sebastiano Bertolone has been released after being held for 7 days by an extremist group.

According to Bertolone, who was kidnapped from his house located in the Nunoa district, he was released on 25 December at approximately 2200 near the Lo Valle slaughter house located near the La Victoria neighborhood.

Later Bertolone went on his own to La Victoria church where he requested the parish priest to take him to the Santiago archbishop's residence located on Simon Bolivar Street in Nunoa.

Bertolone, who was with his wife and Assistant Bishop (Sergio Valech), answered some questions by the press. Asked whether he knew where he had been kidnapped, Bertolone said: I would be lying if I said I was held in this or that place. He added that in general terms he was treated well.

Regarding Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno's appeal urging the kidnappers to release the journalist on Christmas, Bertolone said he was aware of this appeal and that this is why he immediately went to Fresno's residence. He added: I owe my life to Msgr Fresno, to the press, and to my wife. Bertolone, was later taken to a relative's house to get some rest, promised that he would issue more details about his kidnapping on 26 December.

MORE OPPOSITION MEMBERS ARRESTED, BANISHED

Over 20 Arrested

PY240235 Paris AFP in Spanish 0127 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 23 Dec (AFP) -- More than 20 members of the opposition and of social organizations were arrested this weekend in northern Chile, under the provisions of the state of siege levied by General Augusto Pinochet's government, according to sources of the Chilean Human Rights Commission.

In Arica, 2,100 km north of Santiago, the police arrested Juan Retelli, president of the local human rights commission, and 15 local leaders of the teachers' union and of parties which belong to the Democratic Alliance, the sources said.

In Iquique, 1,900 km north of Santiago, German Valenzuela, also the president of the local human rights commission, was arrested along with six other persons.

These reports have not been confirmed officially but the state of siege which went into effect on 6 November this year grants exceptional power to the authorities as far as restricting individual guarantees goes. Since that date some 650 persons have been banished to faraway rural villages charged, according to the government, with crimes or involvement in subversive activities.

6 Persons Banished

PY201249 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2325 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] In compliance with Decree No (?65) of the Interior Ministry and Clause B of Transitory Article No 24 of the Constitution, the following six persons have been sentenced to banishment: Osvaldo Rogelio Osorio Herrera to Los Alamos, Alfredo Nicolas Reyes Rastevich to (Colton), Victor Humberto Elizard Engesa to (Quirua), Ernesto Enrique Aguilar Senya to Negrete, Jaime Ruben Perez de Arce to [Quilleto), and Gonzalo Pereira Martinez to (El Talado). The number of persons banished to Pisagua totals 422, and 17 persons are at the disposal of the Interior Ministry for having violated the state security law.

17 More Banished

PY242325 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 24 Dec (AFP) -- The Chilean military government today banished 17 people to several urban localities throughout the country. Thus, the total of those banished now goes up to 661 since the implementation of the state of siege on 6 November 1984. In an official communique, the National Social Communications Agency said that there are 421 persons at the lonely cove of Pisagua, located 2,000 km north of Santiago, where the banishment has been lifted for one person.

Another 240 persons, scattered to several urban areas, are carrying out their obligatory 3-month banishments. Among these, the measure has been lifted on 3 people. Another 11 persons are at the Disposal of the Interior Ministry because they have violated the State Security Law, according to the official communique.

Priests, Nuns, Worker Detained

PY251658 Paris AFP in Spanish 1513 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 25 Dec (AFP) -- Two priests, two nuns, and a worker were detained by security agents for distributing leaflets against torture near two churches, it was reported today by judicial sources. In a habeas corpus petition filed at a Santiago court on behalf of the detainees, lawyers of the Catholic Church Solidarity Vicariate contended that the defendants were just distributing Christmas cards.

The Christmas cards said: For a Christmas without Herods and for a New Year without torturers. No to torture.

The lawyers said that the cards contained no charges or accusations and that the defendants had not staged a public demonstration but rather took part in activities carried out in churches by groups of no more than three persons.

The detainees are Fathers Lian Hollahan and Denies Omara Folan, nuns Mariana del Carmen Diaz and Maria Ines Urrutia, and worker Juan Carlos Guerra. All are members of the Sebastian Acevedo Antitorture Movement, which took its name from a workers who killed himself a year ago in the southern city of Concepcion to protest the detention of two of his children by the National Intellegence Center (CNI), the secret police of the Chilean military government.

BETANCUR ON CONSTRUCTION OF MALAGA NAVAL BASE

PA232001 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Dec 84 p 2 A

[By special correspondent Felio Augusto Plazas]

[Text] Buenaventura, 19 Dec -- President Belisario Betancur has rejected any attempt to carry out atomic test explosions in the Pacific Ocean, adding that with the construction of the Malaga Naval Base "Colombia has begun to stand up and look at the sea face to face instead of sitting down with its back to it as it had been doing."

Betancur expressed optimism over the country's economic future, adding that an indicator of economic recovery is the fact that the reserves, which had shown a negative balance in the past 2 months, are now showing positive signs.

"We are on the eve of a change in Colombia's international situation and proof of this is the fact that we have just obtained $220 million in credit from the Andean Reserves Fund," he said.

Today President Betancur, accompanied by several ministers and ranking military officers, signed the contracts for civilian works and loans with Scandinavian banks to finance various projects totaling $150 million. The documents were signed at the site where the naval base will be built.

Swedish Housing Minister Hans Gustafsson was present at the ceremony and stressed the fact that this transnational project will be carried out by Swedish firms.

Betancur also reiterated that Colombia is not engaged in an arms buildup and does not intend to do so, neither does it seek to become a military power. He added: "This is why we do not keep statistics on the weapons acquired by Latin American countries or neighbors."

Betancur added that the acquisition of four corvettes and two oceanographic vessels for the national Navy and the construction of the Malaga Naval Base "does not reflect an attitude of an arms buildup but are steps to incorporate the Pacific Coast into the country's development."

"We are expanding our homeland, President Betancur said, adding that it was not until now that the 1,300 km of Pacific Ocean coastline will be incorporated into the national territory.

"Colombia must be prepared to become a Pacific coast country and as do all the members of the South Pacific Treaty, we reject nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean," Betancur said. He added that starting next year two of the four corvettes and one of the two oceanographic vessels will be positioned in Pacific waters to reaffirm our sovereignty in this zone and to be at the service of the inhabitants of that region. In conclusion, President Betancur said that with the incorporation of the Pacific Coast through the Malaga Naval Base project, Colombia will increase its resources and the capacity to exploit them.

EPL TO RETURN TO NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN JANUARY

PA211717 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0254 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota, 20 Dec (EFE) -- The Colombian Popular Liberation Army (EPL) will return to the "national dialogue" table after its withdrawal last 13 November. "The EPL will return to the 'national dialogue' next January, providing that Government Minister Jaime Castro Castro complies with the commitments agreed on today," Oscar William Calvo, official spokesman of the group, told EFE.

Calvo added that after a meeting between the government minister and the EPL, the latter had promised to study and investigate the EPL charges, which resulted in its withdrawal from the "national dialogue."

Calvo said: "Basically the nation's attorney general office must investigate the arbitrary arrest of EPL members in Monteria (northern Colombia), Medellin (in the northeast), and Bucaramanga (in the northwest).

Another agreement reached with the government minister, the EPL spokesman noted, "is to reestablish the dialogue commission's leadership and to guarantee the electoral activities of the political rallies in the country."

The EPL leader reiterated his solidarity with the 19 April Movement (M-19), which since last week has been fighting the Army in the Corinto, Cauca region, in the southwestern part of the country, which he described as "a serious incident."

The EPL signed a truce and cease-fire with the government of President Belisario Betancur last 23 August in Medellin, simultaneously with a sector of the "Workers Self-Defense" (ADO) in Bogota, and on the following day, on 24 August, the M-19 signed a similar agreement.

M-19 REAFFIRMS TO BETANCUR DESIRE FOR DIALOGUE

PA250107 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1933 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota, 24 Dec (EFE) -- The high command of the 19 April Movement (M-19) today reaffirmed to President Belisario Betancur its "desire to dialogue' in order to prevent an disruption of the truce and cease-fire agreed upon on 24 August 1984.

"We are addressing you so that this disrupted truce will not become the beginning of a civil war," said the M-19 in the message signed by Alvaro Favad, a member of the armed organization's high command. The six-page letter, of which EFE received a copy, affirmed that "for us, peace is an open democracy, a great and just banner for which it is worth struggling and dying if necessary to raise Colombia out of the moral, social, and political chaos in which it is mired."

The M-19 reported to the president that "an operation of encirclement and elimination supported by 7,500 men, artillery, and air force, with the purpose of destroying our military forces" is in progress.

The Army and the M-19 have been fighting intermittently in the region of Corinto, southwestern Colombia, since 13 December for the possession of the heights of San Pablo, in the central mountain range, where the guerrillas have their camps.

In the letter to the president the M-19 explained the Army attack on Corinto as "evident and grotesque betrayal." The M-19 said that the military forces are responsible for "unleashing war throughout the country." The message emphasized: "We continue to affirm to the people on the continent that Colombia does not want a war-torn Christmas," and told President Betancur that "only you can stop this situation."

The M-19 said that "the truce is only 100 days old and has already been broken into a thousand pieces." It added that "this Christmas the nation will know whether the path of dialogue to solve the most urgent problems is a path that is definitely closed."

Meanwhile, in order to end the fighting, John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace and Verification Commission, and Antonio Navarro Wolff, leader of the M-19 high command, coincided in stating that "we hope to be able to soon reach a dignified solution for both parties."

CONGRESS APPOINTS SUPREME COURT JUDGES

PA212000 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] In a historic session, the National Congress last night appointed the 16 new judges of the Supreme Court, who will take office at 1600 today before Raul Baca, president of the Congress. Amid a climate of understanding and a firm desire to work and to leave behind the days of confrontation, almost all the members of Congress proceeded to appoint the new judges of the country's highest court.

The new judges are: First Chamber: (Juan King de Burneo) of the Alfarist Radical Front; German Carrion Arciniegas of the Democratic Left [ID]; and Ramiro Borja y Borja of the National Reconstruction Front.

Second Chamber: (Eugenio Moreno Heredia) of the MPD Democratic People's Movement; Gonzalo Cordova Galarza of the ID; and Edison Velez Cabrera of the Ecuadoran Revolutionary Party.

Third Chamber: Jaime Velasco Davila of the Democratic Party; Fabian Guido Flores, independent; and Abdon Calderon Yanez of the Ecuadoran Socialist Party.

Fourth Chamber: Ramiro Larrea Santos of the ID; Jorge Fantoni Camba of the National Reconstruction Front and (Aquiles Valencia Aguirre) of the Broad Front of the Left.

Fifth Chamber: Fidel Jaramillo Teran of the ID; (Jaime Hidalgo Lopez) of Popular Democracy; and Carlos Cueva Tamariz of the Ecuadorean Socialist Party.

Alternate judge: Maximiliano Blum Manzo of the ID.

BRIEFS

IDB LOAN -- The IDB has granted Ecuador a $25.4 million loan which when added to $8.5 million contributed by Ecuador, will help in carrying out the country's rural primary education program, especially in the most isolated areas. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Dec 84 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RIVER PLATE MEETING

PY212030 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Dec 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar yesterday emphasized that the River Plate Basin's "shortcomings have been identified" and that the organization's prospects will be studied. He refused to discuss Bolivia's hopes to use the basin's rivers as an outlet to the Atlantic Ocean.

Saldivar returned yesterday afternoon to Asuncion after participating in the 15th River Plate Basin conference held in the city of Punta del Este. The other members of the national delegation to that meeting also returned with Saldivar.

At the airport, talking about the events at the ministerial meeting, Saldivar stated that "the main point is that shortcomings have been identified in the organization which prevent it from making good progress. A process of physical integration requires many admustments, that will be a task involving studies and assessments, to see how more cooperation may be achieved."

PLRA RALLY BANNED; LEADERS ARRESTED, RELEASED

PY221818 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1243 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Asuncion, 22 Dec (EFE) -- Early today police released the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) leaders who were arrested last night when the party youth organization was not allowed to hold a rally to demand a broad amnesty and the return of political exiles.

Last night police arrested PLRA Vice President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin and the following leaders of the Authentic Radical Liberal Youth (JLRA): Luis Guanes, Carlos Mateo, and Ramon Ferreira. The arrests were made shortly after police told the leaders that the demonstration had been banned. The rally was to be staged at the Revolutionary Febrerista Party (PRF) headquarters, also known as the People's House, in downtown Asuncion.

The invitation to the frustrated rally which was included in a leaflet that was handed out, said that the rally was sponsored by the Authentic Radical Liberal labor movement, by the committee for the return of political exiles, and by the JLRA movement for social justice and liberation, under the slogan for a country without political prisoners and exiles.

Late last night the PLRA issued a communique signed by its president, Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes, voicing solidarity with the arrested leaders and condemning their arrest.

BRIEFS

SENATE APPROVES ARMY PROMOTIONS -- The Senate has approved the promotion to the next higher rank of the following military officers: Brigadier General Orlando Machuca Vargas and Colonels Isidro Grauto Caballoer, Eladio Iriarte, Trifon Gregorio Lopez Prado, and Ismael Otazu Insauralde. Lieutenant Colonels Guillermo Sojancic Sanchez, Saturnino Gamarra Landolfi, and Mauro Salvador Mareco have also been promoted to the next higher rank. [Summary] [Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Dec 84 p 8 PY]

CONGRESS PERMANENT COMMISSION -- Yesterday the Permanent Commission of the National Congress held its first meeting and appointed its leaders as follows: Senator Raul Sapena Pastor president and Deputy Adolfo Zayas vice president. [Summary] [Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Dec 84 p 9 PY]

LIMA POLICE ON ALERT; 2,000 'UNDESIRABLES' ARRESTED

PY260010 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2221 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Lima, 25 Dec (TELAM-ANSA) -- After putting its 10,000 personnel on a state of red alert, the Civil Guard arrested today some 2,000 undesirable persons. The state of red alert is intended to preserve order in Lima and reduce the number of thefts, assaults, rapes, and attacks that are characteristic between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Spokesmen for the Civil Guard reported that more than 3,500 suspicious characters were arrested at first, and then 1,500 were set free upon checking that they are holding jobs and have a permanent residence. The remaining 2,000 were placed at the disposal of competent authorities.

The operation, code-named "Christmas 84," was jointly carried out by personnel of the investigative police and the Republican Guard in areas where crimes are committed more frequently, such as downtown Lima, and the heavily populated neighborhoods in the city's northern and eastern areas.

BOMB EXPLODES IN AYACUCHO SQUARE 22 DECEMBER

PY241450 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2231 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (EFE) -- It was reported here today that a bomb explosion took place in the Plaza de Armas in Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, causing panic among the people but no victims or damages.

When the bomb exploded on the night of 22 December, the Plaza de Armas and its adjacent streets were crowded with people who were Christmas shopping. According to the government news agency ANDINA, members of the security forces fired warning shots, causing people and street vendors to flee and shops to close. The plaza became quiet again after 30 minutes, and joint police and military groups intensified their partols in the streets.

The attack was attributed to the Shining Path guerrilla group.

106 POLICEMEN KILLED BY TERRORISTS SINCE 1980

PY251734 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1448 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Lima, 25 Dec (EFE) -- Peruvian terrorists have murdered 106 policemen since 18 May 1980, Civil Guard Director General Juan Valdivia has said.

Valdivia added that 79 more policemen have died at the hands of common criminals since that date. He also reported that 500 policemen have been wounded during this period, 250 of them by terrorists.

Valdivia yesterday met with reporters covering police matters to dedicate an enlarged press room at the 2d region office of the Civil Guard in Lima.

Valdiva announced that the Civil Guard, the Republican Guard, and the Peruvian Investigative Police have prepared a joint plan to protect the people, public buildings, power plants, railway facilities, bridges, and other strategic facilities which have become the targets of terrorist attacks.

BRIEFS

NEW PROVINCE CREATED -- As of today Anchash Department will have a new provice called Huarmey Province, and its capital will be Villa Huarmey. [Summary] [Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Dec 84 PY]

PEMEX TO MAINTAIN EXPORT PRICES THROUGH DECEMBER

FL212000 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0015 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The parastatal Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) enterprise reiterated today that this month it will maintain its export prices for light and crude oil at $29 and $25.50 per barrel, respectively.

When asked about the agreement reached in Geneva by the 13 OPEC countries, PEMEX refused to comment on the meeting at which it was decided to maintain at $29 the price of benchmark crude, that is, the light crude that corresponds to the Isthmus grade that Mexico sells on the international oil market.

Pemex stated that it sells 1.4 million barrels of crude daily to 25 nations in which it has sales contracts with 45 enterprises. Forty-eight percent of these exports go to the United States.

Starting in November 1984 and continuing in December, PEMEX reduced oil exports by 100,000 barrels [daily] to strengthen the international oil market, which was weakening in October.

Of the 1.4 million barrels daily that Mexico exports, 56 percent is heavy Maya crude and 44 percent light crude.

Further Report

FL241844 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0145 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Intersecretariat Petroleum Trade Committee headed by PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta reported today that Mexico will maintain its export prices for light and heavy crude oil at $29 and $25.50 per barrel, respectively. The report says that at the last committee meeting it was decided to keep export prices of crude at the same levels as in recent months. It was also decided to maintain the volume of exports at the November-December level, when exports totaled 1,448,000 barrels per day and 1,440,000 barrels per day, respectively. These amounts are 100,000 barrels per day less than the average for January-October 1984.

The report reiterates Mexico's decision to sell its crude solely to those clients with which Mexico has long-term contracts. It stresses that Mexico will not participate in the spot market. The committee also says that Mexico will not make barter deals with its crude oil.

In a special document released this afternoon, the governmental committee stresses its confidence that the measures adopted by Mexico will help to stabilize the world oil market. It also expresses gratitude for the efforts of the OPEC nations to stabilize the market by establishing a maximum export quota of 16 million barrels per day for its 13 members. It mentions the price differentials for light and heavy crudes adopted by OPEC that tends to stabilize the market.

The committee members agreed in stating that it is important that OPEC itself establish control measures that permit it to detect OPEC members' possible noncompliance with crude oil export quotas and sales prices.

The committee said it is attentive to the international oil market because, if Mexican interests are affected in any way, Mexico will have to redefine its oil policy. It added that the practices of the North Sea producers tend to unbalance the international oil market, because the existence of a spot market makes the imbalance and the eventual drop in price more evident.

Traditionally, PEMEX has met its obligations with all of its clients because it places a high value on the long-range relations it has developed over the years. It stresses that the interests of the world oil market are very delicate worldwide and that a possible price drop would be harmful to consumers and producers, oil companies, national enterprises, and financial institutions, for which reason the cooperation of everyone in reducing the dangers of the market is important.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVES NUCLEAR REGULATORY LAW

FL211326 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1755 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- After 22 modifications, the Chamber of Deputies has approved by a majority the regulatory law of Article 27 of the Constitution, in which Mexico reaffirms its sovereignty in the use, control, exploration, and exploitation of nuclear energy. In this way, the Mexican Government will determine the sovereignty of the nation over this resource.

FOREIGN, DOMESTIC BANKS FINANCE PETROCHEMICAL PLANT

FL242136 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1923 GMT 24 Dec 84

[All figures as received]

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- A $16.4-million credit has been granted to Mexican Industrial Promotion (Primex) enterprise by foreign banks for the construction of a petrochemical plant in Altamira, Tamaulipas, in northern Mexico. Mexican banks granted a 3.5-billion-peso credit (approximately $17,220) for the complex which will produce 30 thousand tons annually of metalic anhydrite. The $16.4 million loan was granted by International Finance Corporation which represents banking institutions in foreign countries. The 3.05-billion pesos credit was granted by several Mexican banks headed by National Bank of Mexico (Banamex). The plant will begin operations in the first 6 months of 1986 targeting a considerable amount of its production toward two export markets, thus becoming an (important) source of foreign currency for the country.

BRIEFS

PEMEX BIENNIAL REPORT -- PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta has presented PEMEX's 1983-1984 biennial report to Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. Beteta reported that in that period, the state oil corporation received income in excess of $32 billion, $22 billion of which was paid in taxes to the Mexican treasury. PEMEX capital reserves rose to 1.6 trillion pesos, 12 times higher than the 1982 reserves. The Mexican treasury will receive 1.7 trillion pesos in taxes and duties from PEMEX before the end of the year, which is equal to 50 percent of all federal fiscal revenue. In 1985 PEMEX will pay 3.7 trillion pesos to the treasury. Beteta reported that PEMEX's foreign debt fell by $2.7 billion during the 24-month period, from $19.2 billion in 1982 to $16.5 billion in 1984. Eighty percent of its operation was financed with PEMEX funds, an improvement of 20 percent over 2 years. Production remained at 2,750,000 barrels per day and reserves are holding at 72 billion barrels. A total of 80 billion pesos of idle material was recovered from abroad and 46 billion pesos was saved by canceling overseas storage, Beteta noted. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Dec 84 p 1 PA]

GNP INCREASE -- The Economic Analysis Division of the Bank of Commerce yesterday estimated that the 1984 GNP will show an increase of 2.2 to 2.5 percent instead of the 1-percent growth that had been anticipated. The economists of this institution have reported that the 1984 balance of payments shows a surplus of approximately $4 billion. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Dec 84 p 7]

CARDOZE DISCUSSES ACHIEVEMENTS OF TALKS WITH SHULTZ

PA222321 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] In exclusive statements to RPC Television today, Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega spoke in detail about the topics and achievements of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during Cardoze's visit to Washington. Cardoze expanded on the statements he made yesterday and summarized Panaman's labor and economic gains.

[Begin recording] [Cardoze] My visit to Washington resulted from a personal invitation I received from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz when he visited Panama for the presidential inauguration. This invitation, in turn, resulted from the talks President Ardito Barletta held with President Reagan in July.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, can you give us a broad outline of the topics that were discussed and the issues that actually formed part of your agenda when you met the U.S. secretary of state?

[Cardoze] The talks touched on a wide range of topics of interest to the two countries. It took several weeks to prepare the agenda and, I repeat, it dealt with a number of bilateral matters between the two countries. With regard to Panama, we discussed issues related to the canal, the fulfillment of the 1977 Panama Canal treaty, economic topics, international trade, and trade with the United States.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, how would you evaluate the results of your visit to Washington, in face of Panama's current economic situation?

[Cardoze] I would say that the main achievement was perhaps the fact that we discussed all of these topics in detail with top-level U.S. Government authorities, in the presence of the secretary of state and high-ranking officials of the U.S. Commerce, Treasury, and Justice Departments. I would list the following as the most tangible achievements: First, all-out U.S. support for the establishment of democracy in Panama and, second, complete agreement that in order for democracy to flourish, there has to be economic recovery or at least a concrete, tangible hope of economic recovery.

The United States supports democracy. The United States supports our economic recovery. In this sense, and at a more tangible level, I would mention the following agreements for immediate implementation: the United States has agreed to rent 100 houses in Panama City, which takes care of a number of houses that have been vacant for some time. Immediate negotiations have begun for the construction of 700 houses in Panama City and Colon, which will be financed and leased by the U.S. Government. We also agreed to immediately examine at the joint committee level the preference that the United States, the Panama Canal Commission, and U.S. Armed Forces in Panama should give to the purchase of Panamanian products and services. As you know, the Panama Canal treaty establishes the Panama Canal Commission's and U.S. military forces' obligation to buy Panamanian products. However, this is not being done, because many times the cost of freight and insurance are not included in the price of imported goods. The joint committee has agreed to take up the matter immediately. This means that Panama will be able to sell more meat, milk, eggs, vegetables, and other Panamanian products to the Panama Canal Commission and to the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Panama.

At the export level, we also agreed to immediately eliminate a great deal of bureaucratic red tape that prevents products that are or that can be made in Panama from entering the United States.

The United States agreed to give Panama the best support possible, so that Panama can fully benefit from the Caribbean Basin economic plan. In this respect, it was also agreed that in the textile field, the United States will negotiate for the entry to the United States of clothes made in Panama.

Next month, a technical mission will go to Washington to put the final touches on this agreement. Several U.S. textile factories could be established in Panama City and in Colon to manufacture these products for export. This represents the possible opening of thousands of jobs in Panama City and Colon.

We also agreed that the United States will study a series of investment projects in the canal area, such as improvements to the canal and the widening of the Culebra Cut. We agreed that these studies and those concerning the alternatives for another canal would be sped up. I have listed a series of agreements that will take effect immediately, in which we can include the support from the Agency for International Development for an economic assistance plan that could promote Panama's economic development and create new jobs without increasing Panama's foreign debt. These are some of the immediate agreements reached during the meeting in Washington. We hope to reach other agreements in the next few months, in the fields of tourism, investments to promote exports, and in other activities that will help promote Panama's economic development.

[Reporter] One last question. In your opinion, in what way will these new agreements help our economic and employment situation?

[Cardoze] The investments in housing, in industries to promote exports, and in textile factories, will create new jobs. I cannot give the exact number. This will depend on the number of factories that are established here. However, I am talking about several thousand jobs for the areas of Panama City and Colon. On the other hand, the purchase of products manufactured in Panama will help private enterprise which will in turn create new jobs. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW PEOPLE'S DEFENSE OFFICE -- President Nicolas Ardito Barletta today approved the creation of the people's defense office, which is to be directly under the president's jurisdiction and independent of any ministry. The office is to provide the citizens or residents of the Republic with quick and efficient access to the services to which they have a right and to receive justified complaints regarding petitions presented at any government office. The people's defense office will also carry out investigations to recommend actions aimed at improving administrative procedures. The office will be headed by a lawyer. It was also reported that President Ardito Barletta has created a commission to review administrative procedures. This commission has a 6-month deadline to prepare a draft bill. Finally, official sources said that tomorrow the president will sign the recently approved laws on insurance and reinsurance policies. [Text] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 84 PA]

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL ON 'SECURITY QUESTION' OF VOA STATION

FL251542 Bridgetown CANA in English 1523 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Dec 25, CANA -- New Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel says a relay station being set up in this former British colony by Voice of America (VOA) could well become a target of guerrilla activity. Esquivel, who won power two weeks ago, told reporters yesterday he was concerned about the security implications of the installation of VOA transmitters near the southern town of Punta Gorda.

The agreement for the setting up of the medium wave relay station for Central America was signed by the defeated administration of George Price. The station, consisting of two 100 kilowatt transmitters, related antennas, a satellite earth terminal, and other support facilities, is being built on land leased by the Belizean Government for 500,000 U.S. dollars.

Belize is a relative haven of peace in Central America which is dogged by civil war in many states.

Esquivel said he did not know whether the agreement covered the security question. The prime minister indicated, however, that in essence he was not opposed to the siting of a relay station here by VOA, the radio arm of the United States Information Agency. Esquivel is pledged to developing closer ties with Washington.

ESQUIVEL TO TRAVEL TO GRENADA PARLIAMENT OPENING

FL242158 Bridgetown CANA in English 2131 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Dec 24, CANA -- Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel travels to Grenada on Wednesday for opening ceremonies of Grenada's new parliament, his office announced today. It is Esquivel's first foreign trip since his election on December 14.

Esquivel said he looked forward to meeting new Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and other Caribbean leaders. The session of the Grenada Parliament, opening with the throne speech on December 28, is the first since a leftwing political party seized power in 1979 in the first coup detat in the English-speaking Caribbean.

EL SALVADOR

RIVERA Y DAMAS 'CONDEMNS' POSSIBILITY OF COUP

PA252306 Paris AFP in Spanish 2244 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Dec (AFP) -- Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, today condemned the possibility of a coup d'etat in the country but admitted that "it is obvious that there are attempts of this type." In statements to AFP, Msgr Rivera said that a coup d'etat "under the present circumstances, as well as at any other time, would be a step backward."

"The pacification and democratization process would suffer a harsh blow and then perhaps peace would be further away from us," said Rivera.

The rumors of a coup d'etat gained strength after the confrontation between the executive and legislative branches over the president's veto of the electoral law that will regulate the municipal and legislative elections next March.

While the executive branch remained firm on its decision by publishing the law in the official newspaper with several articles vetoed, the Legislative Assembly is studying the possibility of ordering the publication of the original bill, which prevents President Napoleon Duarte's son from reelection as mayor of San Salvador. On the apparent disagreements between several military chiefs, President Duarte was obliged to state that "there is unity in the Army and all the commanders have given their support to the democratization process."

D'AUBUISSON ON 'TRUE' ELECTORAL LAW, PDC PROBLEM

PA251319 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Dec 84 pp 7, 58

[Excerpts] Major Roberto D'Aubuisson has stated that thus far there is no electoral law and that the true electoral law will be published by the Legislative Assembly on 2 or 3 January. On Friday night, Major D'Aubuisson, speaking on television as secretary general of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, said that Duarte's partial veto has created an unnecessary crisis.

D'Aubuisson said that the crisis is regrettable. He referred to President Duarte as a "daddy" worrying because his son, whom he called "sonny" [hijin], will not be mayor. D'Aubuisson said that the Constitution states who can hold the position of mayor and what legal status and education that person must have. He promised that the deputies will give President Duarte a signed Constitution as a Christmas gift.

Recalling the previous Constitution, D'Aubuisson said that it banned blood relatives from being a part of the municipal council and that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] never objected to that ban. D'Aubuisson recalled the period from 1962 to 1979 and added that the Christian Democrats never mentioned the ban. Commenting on the electoral law that President Duarte partially vetoed, D'Aubuisson said that the ban against blood relatives holding the positions of mayor and president of the Republic grew out of considerations based on political ethics and logic. D'Aubuisson recommended that in the current situation it would have been wise for Mayor Duarte to have resigned when his father took office as president of the Republic.

D'Aubuisson added that the PDC is afraid of the coalition and is afraid of posting symbols. He noted that when the PDC joined the communist parties to form the National Union of Opposition, UNO, the parties used a single symbol. However, many persons who only wanted to vote for the PDC had to vote for all of the communist parties. D'Aubuisson questioned who was fooling the people the most. Was it UNO, which used a single symbol, or the present programmed coalition, which will use the individual symbols from each party, he asked. D'Aubuisson added that in this way ARENA followers will feel proud to vote for their party and this will also apply to those voting for the parties that formed the coalition.

In explaining why there is still no electoral law, D'Aubuisson said that the Assembly received a draft bill from the Central Electoral Council, discussed it, and approved it by a majority vote. He recalled that the Assembly is the sole state organization that can issue laws. D'Aubuisson added that the president of the Republic has three alternatives after receiving a draft bill: sign it or approve it, refuse to sign it or veto it, or return the bill to the Assembly with observations. The Assembly then discusses the draft bill again taking the President's observations into consideration. Once it is approved by a majority vote, it is again presented to the president. However, remarked D'Aubuisson, Duarte did not exercise his veto power.

D'Aubuisson pointed out that Duarte should have returned the draft bill to the Assembly accompanied by a note explaining his objections to it; this is how Duarte violated the Constitution. D'Aubuisson said that the electoral law that Duarte ordered published is wrong. It was approved, but it is wrong. He added that the Assembly will issue the real electoral law. The Assembly will have 15 days to finalize it; that is, on 2 or 3 January at the latest. That will be the sole electoral law regulating the upcoming elections.

D'Aubuisson said that the electoral law is not the Christian Democrats' real problem but is only their smoke screen. Their real problem is the dialogue failure that has brought about price increases and more unemployment. Those are their real problems.

ARCHBISHOPRIC ANSWERS CATHOLIC MOVEMENT MESSAGE

PA230445 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Dec 84 p 49

[Advertisement by the Legal Assistance Office of the San Salvadoran Archbishopric]

[Text] We are very worried about statements made by the so-called Catholic Traditional Movement, MTC. Besides spreading a great number of lies, the signatories of the MTC message, namely engineer Roberto D. Corrales, Margarita Maria Zelaya, engineer Jose R. Hernandez, and Lilian Diaz Sol, also committed a crime. That message violates the criminal code, because the bishops were accused of crimes specified in that code.

To accuse someone of a crime that is officially punishable constitutes a crime of defamation and slander which is a crime committed through the abuse of the freedom of speech. The MTC message accuses the bishops of being responsible for the establishment of a popular church that is nothing more than a subversive element. The message added that the bishops are accessories to a communist plot aimed at destroying the Armed Forces and violating the Constitution.

The message also stated that Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, San Salvador's metropolitan archbishop, is responsible for advocating and generating class hatred and promoting envy, hatred, and arrogance to disturb and shatter our already weak structures. Another crime committed by the signatories of the MTC message is their accusation of obvious ties between the bishops and the terrorists.

Regarding this, they stated that the bishops will be tempting victims of the terrorist subversion. Their predecessor [referring to the late Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero] is a case in point. Regarding this, we demand that the Republic's General Public Prosecutor's Office, the Presidential Commission, and Criminal Judge No 4 of this city take affidavits from the MTC message signatories, because they are obviously suggesting that they know who assassinated Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

We also reserve the right to criminally charge those signatories.

Regarding the reference to the archbishopric's legal aid office, we clarify that the archbishopric's office is actually called Legal Assistance Office of the Archbishopric. Its main duty, as its implies, is to foster the rights of people seeking our protection, denouce human rights violations in our country and protect victims of all political violence in keeping with church principles, the Republic's laws, and humanitarian international law. An example of our work is the techaical assistance we give to all people who are victims of human rights violations including members of the Armed Forces.

We call on the signatories of the document discussed here to understand the current situation and collaborate in the search for peace instead of hampering the work of those who are seeking rational solutions to the armed conflict.

[Signed] Maria Julia Hernandez, director, Legal Assistance Office of the San Salvadoran Archbishopric

CHURCH ON 'ALERT' TO VERIFY TRUCE COMPLIANCE

PA240307 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Catholic Church is on "alert" to verify compliance with the Christmas truce announced by the guerrillas. The rebels decided to suspend military activities on 24, 25, 26, and 31 December as well as on 1 and 2 January.

The auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, Msgr Gregorio Rosas Chavez, today said that the rebels' agreement was the result of the church initiative which considers that the people should have a "breather of tranquillity."

In his homily at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Msgr Rosas Chavez said that the agreement reached by the mixed government-rebel committee at Ayagualo last 30 November is already in effect. The agreement provides open transit to the civilian population from 22 December to 3 January.

"The church is watching for compliance with these commitments; people must be shown that the honest and sincere dialogue is a slower but safer way to achieve peace," Rosas Chavez affirmed.

The prelate also reported that during the period of 14 to 20 December, 15 Salvadorans lost their lives through violence, "one of the lowest figures this year," he noted however that the figure did not include the deaths resulting from the various military operations.

Rosas Chavez asked the guerrillas to release several persons kidnapped in the eastern part of the country, "for whom ransoms are being demanded from their relatives because this would also be a sign of the conflict's humanization."

On the other hand, the bishop criticized the attitude of the various Salvadoran political parties which "are engaged in a polemic battle concerning the presidential veto of some articles of the electoral law, forgetting the people's welfare."

Rosas Chavez added that these discussions detracted attention from a communique attacking several members of the ecclesiastic hierarchy, signed by four persons belonging to a phantom group which calls itself Traditional Catholic Movement.

The prelate condemned the charges made by this group against himself and the archbishop of San Salvador, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, and declared that "behind it (the communique) there is a total rebuttal to dialogue as the rational way to achieve peace."

"Those who reject peace and promote war, in otherwords, affirm that there will only be peace when the last guerrilla is killed. This is a strange way to show that one is a Catholic and that one wants peace," the bishop remarked.

ARMY PATROLS HIGHWAYS, ACCUSED OF TRUCE VIOLATIONS

Incursions Into Chalatenango

PA251726 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1217 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Dec (DPA -- Through rebel media, Commander Valentin Martinez has reported that the FMLN repulsed a Salvadoran Army incursion into areas controlled by insurgents in northern Chalatenango Department. According to the report, a clash took place yesterday when troops of the 4th Infantry Brigade under Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez tried to invade the area.

Guerrilla sources reported that government troops sustained at least two casualties. Martinez said: "We will only attack if our fighters, civilians, or our guerrilla positions are attacked by Duarte's troops."

The government Army carried out combing operations along the Northern Trunk Highway and in the vicinity of Tonacatepeque and San Jose Guayabal, Chalatenango Department, and in Suchitoto, Cabanas Department. There were also reports of bombings carried out by the Salvadoran Air Force (FAS) in Las Vueltas and La Laguna, Chalatenango Department.

Martinez reiterated that "all our vanguard units, guerrilla columns, and people's militias, as well as our urban clandestine militias, are supporting our determination to maintain a temporary truce."

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Army continued patrolling operations along the country's main highways to ensure the free movement of vehicles. In addition, policemen are monitoring traffic and searching vehicles for explosives or weapons being carried in the capital by extremists, according to statements made to DPA by military sources. Those sources added that the truce to allow free traffic is being complied with in keeping with the dialogue in Ayagualo. Nevertheless, vigilance and security operations by the police continue throughout the country.

Free Transit Violated

PA240200 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The agreement between our FMLN-FDR and the Duarte regime in Ayagualo, in which both parties agreed to permit the free transit of vehicles and civilian population throughout the country, went into effect on 22 December. Our revolutionary military units have received precise instructions to adhere to the agreement reached in Auagualo. We reiterate our unconditional disposition to comply with the Ayagualo agreement, to prove our responsibility in the dialogue and negotiation process with the Duarte regime.

The full compliance on our part of the Ayagualo agreement, is the beginning of our willingness to fully comply with the Christmas and New Year holidays truce that our fronts, the FMLN-FDR, unilaterally approved as an answer to the Salvadoran people's hope for peace.

Meanwhile, the troops of the unpopular Army are showing serious signs of violating the Ayagualo agreement, by carrying out several repressive actions against the civilian population in different parts of the country.

In Chalatenango for instance, troops of the 4th Brigade [words indistinct] and of the Atlacatl Battalion, are occupying the towns of La Palma, Citala, El Refugio, [words indistinct] El Barrancon and other villages in the northern part of Chalatenango Department. This military occupation is resulting in many repressive actions against the civilian population and arbitrarily interfering with the free transit of private vehicles along the northern sector of the northern main highway.

The people [words indistinct] affected by the repressive action of the troops commanded by the criminal Colonel Ochoa, strongly reject the actions carried out by Duarte's Army, which violates the agreements reached during the meeting in Ayagualo and seriously upset the Salvadoran people's hope for peace, especially at this time of year, during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

We ask the people to be on the watch for the repressive measures carried out by Duarte's Army and to report in any way possible, any intention of the Army High Command to violate the agreement on free transit of vehicles and of the civilian population. This agreement is being seriously threatened in several parts of the country.

FMLN Reports Army Attacks

PA242037 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador
1830 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Radio Farabundo Marti has received a report from Chalatenango Department. the Duarte regime troops continue to foster plans to stage incursions in areas under FMLN control. A few minutes ago, Duarte's warmongering troops fired on the vicinity of Las Vueltas and La Laguna from Chalatenango and Concepcion Quezaltepeque. This warmongering and desperate act by the regime endangers the civilians living in those places. When we received this report no details were available on casualties or property damage caused by the puppet Army's artillery fire.

Our guerrilla units are waging clashes in the vicinity of Concepcion Quezaltepeque and Dulce Nombre where the enemy is carrying out military operations despite a request to the contrary by the Salvadoran Church. Our units will respect the truce and will make the enemy respect it as well.

FMLN Urges Respect for Truce

PA250229 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador
1830 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Today, 24 December, on the first day of the truce unilaterally decreed by the FMLN-FDR, the dictatorship's puppet Army has broken the agreement. Duarte's repressive Army is showing the people and the world that it does not want peace in our country. Duarte's Army is not complying with the Christmas truce in Chalatenango.

On this day, FMLN military units which are defending the territorial limits of the zone under control of the revolutionary forces in Chalatenango Department have been forced to engage in combat with the troops under the command of Colonel Ochoa. Our military units repelled the enemy's attack in the territory controlled by the FMLN in Chalatenango.

These clashes took place at 0500 on 24 December near the town of Concepcion Quezaltepeque. The reports received by Radio Farabundo Marti say that our revolutionary forces inflicted two casualties on the enemy troops and that they also seized two M-16 rifles. The Army's high command is not complying with the truce, which has the people's full support. Duarte is intensifying the war during the Christmas holiday.

The Army's high command is disregarding the Salvadoran people's hopes for peace. The FMLN-FDR reiterate to the people our unbreakable decision to definitely respect the agreements reached at Ayagualo and the Christmas and New Year's truce, despite the irresponsible and warmongering provocations of the puppet Army's high command. Our military units will only engage the enemy troops to defend the territorial limits of the zones under control of the revolutionary forces throughout the country.

We are asking Duarte and the Army's high command to stop its provocations, to keep the troops in their garrisons during the period of truce decreed by our fronts, and to respect the Ayagualo agreement of free transit and movement of civilians throughout the country.

Rebels Reiterate Compliance

PA251604 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Communique issued by the FMLN-FDR; date, place not given]

[Text] To the Salvadoran people and the international public:

On 11 December the FMLN and FDR fronts turned over 43 prisoner soldiers to the San Salvador's Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas in La Joya, San Vicente Department, in good physical and mental condition. In addition, our fronts announced their unilateral decision to declare a truce on all military actions from 0000 hours on 24 December to 2400 hours on 26 December, and from 0000 hours on 31 December to 2400 hours on 2 January 1985. That decision shows our determination to contribute to the humanization of our country's war with specific measures. This reflects the peace aspirations of our people and satisfies the Catholic Church's request voiced by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas on 30 November in Ayagualo.

On our part, we have expressed our determination to allow the free transit of people and private vehicles from 23 December to 3 January as was agreed upon in Ayagualo. We now reiterate our determination to comply with that agreement. However, top Salvadoran Army spokesmen recently voiced opposition to the Christmas truce. Moreover, and ignoring statements made by government spokesmen, the Army announced the continuation of military operations in keeping with its original plans, thus choosing to ignore the truce established by our fronts. Colonel Adolfo Blandon, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, chief of the El Paraiso Detachment, made announcements to this effect which show the Salvadoran people and the international public that a determination to achieve the humanization of war is lacking. It also reveals that the government has no decisionmaking capability. In fact, the possibility of a Christmas truce now lies in the hands of President Duarte and his administration.

Our fronts wish to put on record their firm determination to comply with the announced truce and to only fight in defense of our forces, civilians, and areas under our control. The Army is now carrying out operations in areas under control and is announcing roadblocks during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. These actions violate the agreement reached during the Ayagualo meeting on 30 November to allow the free movement of people and private vehicles between 23 December and 3 January, inclusively. This is why our fronts, which have shown a determination to achieve a humanization of war and a negotiated solution to the conflict, are clashing with the inflexible attitude of a high command that refuses to implement minimum measures to ensure the security and peace of the people. Moreover, it refuses to comply with agreements previously reached with our fronts. We are also confronting a government that is incapable of respecting commitments even though they were publicly made before the people and the international public.

Our fronts wish to alert the Salvadoran people on the emergence of new death squads aimed at threatening people within and outside the Army, and within and outside the Church who are advocating a political solution to the conflict through dialogue and negotiation. Threats launched against Archbishop Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas simply because he is mediating in the dialogue between our fronts and the government are disturbing. The Salvadoran people, with their heroism and blood, will support all efforts that lead to the achievement of a just peace accompanied by independence, sovereignty, and full self-determination.

[Signed] The FMLN and the FDR

VENCEREMOS CITES STATISTICS ON ARMY CASUALTIES

PA230327 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] From 18 November to 18 December our guerrilla units have inflicted approximately 416 casualties upon the enemy. In this period we also seized from the puppet Army 111 rifles; 6 M60 machine guns; 1 90mm cannon; and a large quantity of ammunition. We also captured 46 prisoners.

GUATEMALA

OPPOSITION LEADERS: COUNTRY BECOMING ARMS SUPPLIER

FL242100 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1833 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Guatemala has become an arms supplier to Central American countries thanks to the aid Israel and Taiwan have given to Mejia Victores' regime, which has ordered peasants killed.

In a press conference, leaders of the Unitary Representation of Guatemalan Opposition (ROUG), Rigoberto Menchu and Rolando Castillo Montalvo, said the Guatemalan Government has become the main human rights oppressor. This is why thousands of Guatemalans have had to migrate to Mexico in order to save their lives. They said their country's military government has also subjected people to domestic exile to the mountainous regions of Quetzaltenango, Ixan, and Quiche. More people are exiled domestically than to foreign countries.

Likewise, they said that despite the international community's reiterated concern over the constant, serious, and generalized violations of human rights in Guatemala, the people each day are denied their right of speech and their fundamental rights are restricted through death. Menchu and Castillo Montalvo expressed their repudiation of the oppressive regime which rules their country and denounced the existence of Israeli-sponsored arms factories in Guatemalan territory, which will become big supply centers for Central American oppressive regimes, they said.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION DROPS -- Guatemala City, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Alejandro Contreras, Guatemalan energy and mines minister, today reported that Guatemala's oil production suffered a substantial drop in 1984 because of lack of interest in repairing problem wells. In 1983 Guatemala produced 10,000 barrels a day and in 1984 it only produced 4,000 barrels a day. [Summary] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1757 GMT 23 Dec 84 PA]

HONDURAS

BALI, MONTOYA RECALLED FROM PERU, TAIWAN

PA250351 Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 24 Dec (AFP) -- Honduran Generals Daniel Bali and Humberto Montoya, sent abroad after the expulsion of the chief of the Armed Forces, Gustavo Alvarez, must return to the country, according to an announcement by the chief of the Armed Forces, General Walter Lopez. Bali and Montoya, who were sent to Peru and Taiwan after having occupied the posts of commanders of security and the Navy, respectively, have already been notified to return to Honduras "as soon as possible by the express decision of the General Command," Lopez pointed out.

Meanwhile, General Lopez today asked political leaders currently engaged in a pre-electoral campaign of hatred and verbal attacks to be sensible. The ranking officer expressed his wish that "the political leaders begin next year's work in a friendly, sensible, and civilized manner, to help our country out of its crisis."

NICARAGUA

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, JUNTA HOLD FIRST MEETING

Ortega: Ready to Talk

PA240318 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Sandinist government is prepared to hold a dialogue with the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua in the next few days, in response to a recent proposal made by the bishops Carlos (Santi) and Pablo Smith. The above was announced by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and president-elect, before 875 graduating economics students. These students are the first to graduate in the revolution. The students chanted the slogan "Commander Carlos Present." The president-elect of Nicaragua recalled the difficult economic conditions affecting the country, and considered the future of the new professionals a real challenge.

Ortega Comments on Talks

PA242032 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1938 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Report by Freddy Lopez Quiroz]

[Excerpts] The first top-level meeting between our revolutionary government and the Episcopal Conference has just concluded, after 3 hours of talks held between Episcopal Conference members and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and president-elect of Nicaragua. According to Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, positive results were achieved. The meeting between the bishops and Commander Ortega, as well as other government representatives, was held at the archdiocesan seminary near Monte Tabor.

At the conclusion of this important meeting, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra made an exclusive statement to the Voice of Nicaragua on the importance of this event, the main topics discussed, and future meetings.

[Begin recording] [Lopez] Commander, how important is this meeting between the Government of National Reconstruction and the Episcopal Conference?

[Ortega] We have defined it as a ray of light on 24 December; this ray of light should help us achieve the peace that is desired and demanded by the Nicaraguan people. The spirit and power of a dialogue has prevailed here because the Nicaraguan Government and the Episcopal Conference seek a national reconciliation. We have also clearly stated our desire to discuss the points of conflicts and a commission has been comprised to discuss them. Thus, we will seek a solution to the problems. We hope that this effort for a dialogue will become an effort for the Nicaraguan people and peace. In addition, the bishops have also clearly stated their interest in talking prior to the inaugural ceremony of our recently elected government, on 10 January.

[Lopez] Were any specific topics discussed during the meeting?

[Ortega] Well, we talked about internal and external matters. We discussed all of the main topics that are of interest regarding Nicaraguan problems.

[Lopez] Commander, will you meet again in the future? Have you established a date?

[Ortega] Well, we agreed to continue holding these meetings. In the meantime, the commission will start working. The government will be represented by Companero Rodrigo Reyes and Companero Rene Nunez.

[Lopez] Thank you. [end recording]

Government Issues Communique

PA242310 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2218 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Communique issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on 24 December]

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction informs the people of Nicaragua that:

Today, 24 December 1984 at 1000 there was a meeting between the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference -- represented by Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, Msgr Carlos Santi, Msgr Julian Barni, Msgr Ruben Lopez Ardon, Msgr Pablo Smith and Msgr Bosco Vivas, accompanied by Nuncio Apostolic Msgr Andrea Cordero di Montesemulo -- and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua -- represented by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Companero Rene Nunez Tellez, secretary of the FSLN national leadership; Companero Rodrigo Reyes, minister-secretary of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; and Companero Ricardo Peter Silva, Nicaraguan ambassador to the Vatican.

The meeting was a continuation of the latest dialogue held between the Government of Nicaragua with the Holy See from 6 through 12 September of the current year, and was carried out in the spirit of the search for peace on behalf of the people, which our government is promoting at the various national and international events and forums.

During the dialogue, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, the two groups discussed issues of mutual interest and agreed to continue the discussion of the topics to be brought up by the two parties through their own delegates at a future meeting early next year.

Given in the city of Managua on 24 December 1984. General Secretariat of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. After 50 years, Sandino Lives!

RADIO IMPACTO CORRESPONDENT ON 'SLANDER CAMPAIGN'

PA230159 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Dec 84

[By Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez from Managua]

[Text] Good morning friends. The FSLN has resumed its attacks against Radio Impacto and its two correspondents in Managua. This morning, the government's news media, only 3 days before Christmas, unleashed virulent attacks on Radio Impacto for carrying an interview with Enrique Sotelo Borge, Nicaraguan Conservative Party leader, who denied the accusations made by the so-called Democratic Conservative Party, led by Clemente Guido and Rafael Cordova Rivas. The progovernment newspaper NUEVO DIARIO has accused Radio Impacto of being at the service of the CIA. In view of the situation, we want to alert the international community as to what could happen to Radio Impacto's two correspondents in Nicaragua. It would not be a surprise if we spend Christmas in prison.

The situation is the following: The statements that Enrique Sotelo Borge made to the newspaper LA PRENSA have been censored. However, the interview for Radio Impacto went on the air uncensored, and this is the reason the Sandinist regime is after us.

If you recall, during the months of March and April, the pro-government newspapers and other news media concentrated their attacks on Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez, the only correspondent we had in Nicaragua at the time. Mora Sanchez was insulted in every imaginable way and unjustly sent to prison, where the Sandinist regime held him for 4 months and 13 days. His crime was to have reported the truth about what is happening in Nicaragua. This time it was our colleague Salomon Calvo Arrieta, who interviewed Enrique Sotelo Borge. This has caused the wrath of the Sandinist gods. Once more we wish to alert the international community to the possibility that something could happen to Salomon Calvo Arrieta or myself, Luis Mora Sanchez.

PASTORA URGES MISURASATA STATEMENT ON RIVERA

PA260038 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Commander Eden Pastora Gomez feels that the Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas Sandinist Unity will soon issue a statement regarding the attitude assumed by its leader Brooklyn Rivera. During an exclusive interview with Radio Impacto, Commander Cero said that Rivera's actions are not supported by Misurasata.

[Begin recording] Brooklyn Rivera is not a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE]. The member of ARDE is Misurasata, in other words, the Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas. They are the ones supporting the political and ideological projects for which we have been struggling for more than 2 years. We feel that the leaders of the Misurasata should analyze the situation and reach a decision regarding Rivera's attitude. They should also decide about the communists in Managua. Finally they should decide if the Misurasata position is the same as that of ARDE's. [end recording]

FIDEL, RAUL CASTRO RECEIVE SOVIET WAR HEROES

FL261226 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army General Raul Castro have met with the delegation of Soviet war heroes headed by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Savitskiy who are visiting our country at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba. The delegation of Soviet war heroes concluded its visit to Cuba last night after meeting with Cuban students and workers and visiting military units and productive centers.

The delegation of Soviet war heroes was seen off at the airport by Brigadier General Ladislao Baranda, alternate member of the Central Committee, and Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev.

CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE ON USTINOV'S DEATH

PA242349 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] In a message addressed to top Soviet authorities and published by TASS, Cuban President Fidel Castro said that with the death of Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, Cuba has lost a sincere friend and a loyal comrade in arms, who did everything within his power to enable the two countries' armies to share their military experiences.

Further on, Castro said that Ustinov righteously defended peace and socialism, and that under Ustinov's command the Soviet Armed Forces played a decisive role as an element of military balance against imperialism.

In his message Castro said that Ustinov put all his energy, talent, and experience into the difficult task of defending the Soviet people's right to happiness and to a future without wars.

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF DELEGATION TO USSR

Attends Ustinov Funeral

FL241216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Cuban delegation to USSR Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov's funeral has served as an honor guard at the foot of the coffin of the deceased defense minister of the USSR, in the room of columns at trade union headquarters, in Moscow. Later, the Cuban delegation, headed by Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, alternate member of the party Politburo, first vice minister of the FAR, and hero of the Republic of Cuba, offered their condolences to Marshal Ustinov's family.

Meets New Defense Minister

FL251216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Moscow newspapers today published front page reports and photographs of the formal funeral ceremonies held in the Soviet capital for the late Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, CPSU Politburo member and minister of defense.

In the afternoon, shortly after the funeral ceremony in Red Square, the Cuban military delegation there met with the new Soviet Minister of Defense Marshal Sergey Sokolov. Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov also met with the other military delegations attending the funeral ceremonies of Marshal Ustinov.

The condolence book at the Soviet embassy in Havana, opened on the heartfelt demise of Marshal Ustinov, was signed by Blas Roca, Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State. Also at the embassy to sign the condolence book were Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate Politburo member and president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], Jorge Lezcano, Central Committee member and vice president of the National Assembly of People's Government. Rene Rodriguez Cruz, Central Committee member and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, vice presidents of this organization Mario Rodriguez and Alfonso Guillen Celaya, and Dr Zolio Marinello, president of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association.

Departs Moscow

FL252004 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1912 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The official Cuban military delegation that attended the funeral of Soviet Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, who was Soviet defense minister until his death, departed from Moscow today. The Cuban delegation to Ustinov's funeral was headed by Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, alternate member of the Politburo and first vice minister of the FAR.

MILITARY DELEGATION ENDS VISIT TO VIETNAM

FL251954 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] The high-level FAR delegation, which attended the ceremony for the 40th anniversary of the People's Army of Vietnam, has concluded its visit to that Indochinese country. Division General Sixto Baptista Santana, alternate member of the Politburo and chief of the Central Committee's Military Department; and Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado were among the members of the FAR delegation.

FRANCE'S NUCCI INTERVIEWED ON COOPERATION

PA252028 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] An intergovernmental meeting for cooperation between Cuba and France will be held in Havana in January. (Claude Hackins), special Havana Radio correspondent in Paris, reports on an interview with Cristian Nucci, French minister delegate in charge of cooperation and development for the minister of external relations.

[Begin recording] French Cooperation Minister Nucci has asserted that 1985 will constitute a new stage in French-Cuban cooperation. He was interviewed by Havana Radio's special reporter in Paris. Nucci pointed out that the intergovernmental cooperation meeting to be held in Havana during the first days of January will be very important because it will be held at the ministerial level and will allow new perspectives on bilateral cooperation.

Although cooperation between France and Cuba has just begun, important sectors, such as public health and agriculture, have already been involved that will allow us to attain much higher cooperation figures and volumes than those we have experienced, he said.

Regarding public health, Nucci said that the tropical medicine institute is an important project for which implementation efforts are necessary. He asserted: At present, we have some budget limitations. However, we will have to find the money and the means to carry out this project. We have made pledges and I will do everything possible to have them honored.

Regarding the meeting held in San Jose a few months ago between EEC and Central American representatives, Nucci said that the meeting marked the beginning of a new dialogue based on much clearer political grounds and with an eye toward development aid by European countries that should make bigger efforts to attain a greater solidarity with other countries, basically in the rural and foreign indebtedness sectors.

When asked whether Nicaragua would benefit from this policy, Nucci said there is no reason why a particular state should be excluded and noted that he expressed this at the San Jose conference. [end recording]

U.S. AUTHORITIES DETAIN CUBANS AT NEW YORK AIRPORT

PA241526 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Officials of the U..S Immigration and Naturalization Service have detained 77 Cubans at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. The Cubans, who had arrived from Spain, were detained for trying to enter the United States with invalid documents. Twenty-six of them are single and were taken to an immigration detention center: the others, who are accompanied by relatives, were left in the custody of Iberia Airlines.

U.S. DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO CRITICIZED

PA251936 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 84

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] On 19 December, the United States officially confirmed that it will leave UNESCO. The announcement is not surprising because the U.S. Government had turned its back on this organization for a long time. The attention given by the various U.S. administrations to UNESCO's three branches has mostly been limited to reducing the organization's cultural and educational budgets. Only scientific activities with warlike purposes received increased official support; that is, dirty work with toxic substances, research leading to complex technologies to kill or spy better can be described as scientific activities.

In reality, the United States withdrew from UNESCO many years ago by withholding funds for educational and cultural projects. All of this was done without much fanfare. By invading other countries' markets and mass production means and thereby imposing its propaganda machine, the United States jeopardized those peoples' cultural expressions and tried to impose a life and an attitude alien to those cultures, their natures and needs.

This relationship is not entirely unknown. According to statistics, a large percentage of the news, films, and other data that millions of the world's peoples receive daily originate in U.S. agencies that, quite naturally, think and feel like Americans. Somehow, these agencies stamp these materials with the view that best suits the U.S. Government.

On 19 December, when Gregory Newell, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, listed UNESCO's poor administration and excessive politicization as causes for the U.S. withdrawal from the organization. He only used subterfuge. The mere denial of a new international order in information handling is not a political event per se, neither is it to deny this order with declarations. However, the United States has denied this order through a policy based on the falsification of the realities of many of UNESCO's member countries that demand a fair, objective consideration of their problems.

The fact that for many years the United States has proclaimed, through books, films, comics, and secret and not so secret reports, that, generally speaking, the Third World culture is one of savages and is inferior to the Western culture -- and, above all, to the Yankee culture -- demonstrates the United States' scorn for other peoples' cultures and right to sovereignty and dignity.

Many years ago the United States withdrew from UNESCO by ignoring and underestimating that organization's objectives for U.S. policy. Now, the United States has officially declared its withdrawal from UNESCO as of 31 December. Was the United States really a UNESCO member?

On 19 December, UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow reiterated his determination not to resign from his post and not to tolerate groundless blackmail. Perhaps, the U.S. leaders will be quiet again if someone proposes the creation of an international organization to disseminate American education, science, and culture. UNESCO wants to give all peoples a chance to offer their information to others, but the self-styled champions of the sacred freedom of the press see this as excessive politicization.

In truth, the United States tries to discredit and destroy all institutions, persons, and governments who do not submissively follow Washington's mandates. However, those times have passed into history forever.

HONDURAS BECOMES U.S. 'MILITARY ENCLAVE'

PA251620 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 24 Dec 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The United States and Honduras have not disclosed the terms of a joint document signed after the two nations completed a new round of talks on bilateral military and economic relations. The secrecy originates in the fact that the document contains important military matters to be disseminated by the Armed Forces staff only, according to Ubodoro Arriaga, Honduran minister of the presidency who headed the Honduran delegation during the negotiations.

Nevertheless, Alan Romberg, U.S. Department of State spokesman, asserted in Washington that the talks with the Honduran Government, to be resumed in March, are aimed at revising security matters. Meanwhile, U.S. news media have reported that the amount of money requested by Tegucigalpa has been considered by the White House to be exaggerated. According to press reports, Tegucigalpa requests three fundamental things in order to renew the accord that has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1954: guarantee for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries to leave the country provided the Washington-oriented attacks against Nicaragua are suspended; a solution to the border problem with El Salvador; and large sums of money. The United States has already earmarked $280 million to be delivered to Honduras during the 1984-85 fiscal year. This amount is to be added to other credits totalling millions granted to Honduras by the U.S. Government. Honduras has become Washington's gendarme in Central America.

Despite pressurces from Tegucigalpa to obtain more money in exchange for the role played by Honduras as White House satellite, there are no significant contradictions between the two nations' authorities. It has been officially reported that the U.S.-Honduran joint military exercises, that have been carried out in Honduras, will continue next year. It has also been reported that these exercises will practically involve the entire territory.

As most of us know, all joint exercises carried out by Honduran and U.S. troops are in accordance with the accord signed in 1954. Therefore, plans for next year indicate that the accord's renewal is to be taken for granted.

The differences, if any, are only trivial. Next year's exercises will begin with the third stage of the "Big Pine" maneuvers initiated 2 years ago that included Honduran Marines, airborne troops, armored vehicles, field artillery, and other specialized troops and equipment.

At present, there are more than 1,500 U.S. soldiers permanently stationed in Honduras and plans are underway to continue updating landing strips that have already been enlarged to accomodate C-130 Hercules aircraft used for the transportation of troops and supplies. The United States has not only turned Honduras into a military enclave, but a highly specialized base that serves as a springboard to attack other countries. Warplane pilots have been intensively trained and approximately 13 landing strips have been built. These landing strips form a big ring that encircles the entire country and allows rapid troop mobilization. These facts indicate that any demands made by Tegucigalpa during its talks with the United States are only superficial and that U.S. military intervention in Honduras continues with new impetus, thus aggravating the threat to regional peace.

U.S. MILITARIZATION OF SPACE CRITICIZED

FL241623 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Specialists concur in pointing out that with its so-called Star Wars, the present Yankee administration is preparing the conditions to convert Europe into the theater of an eventual nuclear war. It has been determined that the first goal of this plan to militarize space is the protection of the nuclear arsenal based in the United States.

Among the multiple criticisms made by scientists against these plans of Reagan's is the fact that the program can be perceived as basically offensive, endangers Europe inasmuch as the plans sacrifice Europe for the sake of the defense of the Yankee arsenal based in the continental United States, and may provoke a reprisal because, theoretically, Reagan's plan to achieve an impenetrable defensive system is unachievable.

In the past few hours, the British Government of Margaret Thatcher has expressed support for the Yankee plan to militarize space with the condition that it serve as a basis for negotiations. But undoubtedly, the USSR will negotiate from a position of strength. Some British personages have pointed out that it is a dangerous provocation and may provoke humanity's last war. The USSR has warned that such a project could mean an end to the hope of improving the international climate.

COMMENTARY NOTES SALVADORAN 'RIGHT-WING THREATS'

PA220205 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Dec 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Salvadoran Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas has asserted that he will continue mediating in the dialogue between the government and the guerrilla groups, despite threats issued by the extreme right-wing sectors in the past few days. Thus, the Catholic prelate replied to accusations from a so-called Traditional Catholic Movement which issued a public communique criticizing and threatening church officials who have participated in the dialogue process, describing it as a sterile negotiation with the subversives.

The extreme right-wing movement accused the Salvadoran archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosas Chavez of forming a people's church and exerting pressure for the dialogue, thus violating the country's Constitution and laws.

The committee also accused church leadership of exerting pressure on the Armed Forces high command through matters related to human rights and allowing alleged Marxist indoctrination at the Jesuit Central American University, UCA.

The so-called Traditional Catholic Movement which made these charges is led by Jose Hernandez, Roberto Corrales, and other extreme right-wing elements. Its public appearance came almost simultaneously with the creation of a death squad called the Special Command of the Domingo Monterrosa Brigade, which last week claimed responsibility for the execution of three people.

Msgr Rivera y Damas reasserted that he will continue mediating in the dialogue and underscored that he will not be cowed by threats and accusations. The archbishop of San Salvador added that he is participating as mediator with the church's authorization.

It is highly significant that these threats have been issued when the Salvadoran church leadership is fulfilling a role as intermediary in the dialogue between the government and the guerrilla forces. The charges have also been issued after the Salvadoran archbishop's strong criticism of the government during his Sunday homilies and the continued executions by death squads operating in the country.

The extreme right-wing groups are also unhappy with the church's public support for the Christmas cease-fire offered by the FMLN-FDR. The cease-fire has been rejected by President Jose Napoleon Duarte and the Armed Forces.

These facts explain the reason for the threats against the Salvadoran archbishop and Catholic Church. The Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero Christian Legal Office has charged that between June and October 1984, more than 700 civilians have been murdered by the regime's Armed Forces, security corps, paramilitary groups, and death squads. During this period 146 people were arbitrarily arrested; 39 of these are still reported missing. These figures correspond to the first 5 months of President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government.

During the first 10 months of 1984, approximately 2,300 civilians were murdered, 334 arrested, and 119 are reported missing. Physical and psychological torture is being used on the arrested people. They are forced to withstand mock beheadings, being dumped in ravines, use of high-intensity lights, and various beatings. Between May and August 80 Salvadoran political prisoners were subjected to these tortures.

GUATEMALA BOWS TO U.S. PRESSURES ON CONTADORA

PA210438 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 Dec 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] After Washington's significant pressures on the Guatemalan regime to modify its position regarding the Contadora Group, the Guatemalan Government finally gave signs of being obedient pawns in the U.S. policy for Central America. Guatemala recently described as acceptable the observations presented by Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador regarding the Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, which was drafted through the brave efforts of the Contadora Group. The Guatemalan Government, which until recently had not approved the modifications proposed by the three countries, said some days ago that some of the modifications are acceptable because they seek the verification and control of what can be done [words indistinct] Contadora Document.

In other words, this is the same pretext presented by El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica to reject the proposals presented by the Contadora Group which seeks to find peace in Central America. The three countries' proposal was issued in October, after a 2-day meeting in Tegucigalpa, where Guatemala was represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Marroquin. He signed the joint communique but not the amendments approved during the meeting. On that occasion Marroquin said he had attended the meeting to support the Contadora Group's process, but not to present any observations.

In addition, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran told the press that Oscar Mejia Victores' government did not support the proposed amendments, and reiterated their support of the Contadora Group's efforts.

According to a secret report of the UN Security Council, published on 6 November by the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, the objections presented by El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica to the Contadora Group's document were previously agreed upon with the White House. Thus, the document for peace would become an instrument that favored the U.S. interests in the region.

When the rumors revealed that the United States was exerting pressure on Guatemala to join the U.S. policy for Central America, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran rejected the rumors and asserted: Our country presented no observation regarding the document and has decided to sign it in due time. The Guatemalan foreign minister reasserted this position during the OAS General Assembly, held in Brasilia, where he said that his country favored the amended version of the Contadora Docuemnt. However, in view of the amendments proposed by neighboring countries, Guatemala is willing to continue the negotiations and seek a consensus.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda warned during the meeting that the amendments to the Contadora Group's document might frustrate the peace process and turn into an endless negotiation. In addition, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama issued a communique saying that some of the proposed amendments might be aimed at (improving) parts of the document, but warned that the current presentation of these observations might alter the balance achieved with the Contadora Group's revised version.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto asserted in Managua that Nicaragua will not accept any changes to the peace document, which Washington is trying to impose on Central America through the modifications presented by El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Nicaragua has reiterated its willingness to sign the basic document for Central American peace, without eliminating a single period or comma. The Nicaraguan foreign minister asserted that the United States does not want to lose its political and economic control in Central America; therefore, it is boycotting the signing of the document. The original version of this document is (?based) on the hegemony and self-determination of all the countries in the region.

'EXPLOITATION' OF LATIN AMERICAN INDIANS DENOUNCED

PA250429 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Some years ago Jose Marti, Cuba's national hero, wrote an article in which he said it was necessary to help the Indians progress. By this he meant that it was necessary to protect the Indians from imperialist exploitation. The Indians and peasants represent a powerful force for the future of Latin America.

The Indians are treated in many Latin American countries as simple working machines. Considered as such, they are exploited by the landowners, who possess the best lands and can exploit the people that live in these regions.

In many Latin American countries the transnationals and the oligarchies exploit the poor Indians who work on their big plantations for meager wages. These transnationals and the oligarchies make huge profits from the work of the peasants and the Indians. What has happened is that the landowners have taken away the land from the peasants and Indians, who were the original owners of the land. But the rich can do as they please with the peasants, who live under very miserable conditions. The ones to blame for this situation are the oligarchs-tyrants, who together with the government, have allowed the situation to continue in order to make a few dollars from the capitalist system, which does not see the peasants nor the Indians as human beings.

Here are some places where the Indians and peasants of Latin America are living under deplorable conditions: In Colombia, in Cauca Department: in Peru, in San Juan de (Ondores) and (Campa); in Brazil, in the region of Rio Negro; in Ecuador, in Colorado and in the Cayampas; and in Guatemala, in Quetzaltenango.

According to reports in Risaralda, Colombia, there is a community where the Indians are dying of hunger and where there is a high rate of tuberculosis among the people. In Antioquia Department, Colombia, some 200 Indians recently died of malaria. In the eastern region of Paraguay more than 15,000 peasants are totally neglected by the authorities, and are treated like slaves by the landowners.

According to reports, the settlers in the United States used to kill the Indians in order to get their land. This condition still exists in Brazil, where unscrupulous individuals have destroyed some Indian tribes by dropping bombs on their communities or by giving them poisoned food.

Akai de Pereira dos Santos is one of the individuals who committed the genocide against the Brazilian Indians and who talks without any qualms about his deeds against the natives. He talks about entering an Indian village and shooting the chief and about his henchmen doing the same to the rest of the Indian community. The bodies were thrown to the river by the killers. The extermination of the Indians in Brazil has not ended. This inhuman practive is still going on. For instance, the (Carahua) tribe is about almost extinct. Not long ago the (Carahua) Indians numbered well over 5,000. Today there are less than 500. This is just one case of barbarism in Brazil against the Indian population.

In Guatemala things are not any better for the Indians. According to a book written by Rigoberta (Menchu), a Kekchie Indian leader, which was published by the House of the Americas in Cuba, the Guatemalan military tyranny breaks into Indian villages and massacres them without any qualms. It makes no difference if they are old people, women, or children. What the Guatemalan military tyranny wants is more land for the landowners.

ANPP TO CONVENE 7TH REGULAR SESSIONS IN HAVANA 27 DEC

FL261254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Tomorrow, Thursday, the seventh regular period of sessions of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], corresponding to the second legislature, will begin at the Havana Palace of Conventions. During this regular period of sessions of the ANPP, five bills will be presented to the deputies, including the general housing bill and the labor code bill. The ANPP deputies will also study and debate the economic and social development bill, the proposed 1985 state budget, and the state notaries public bill. The Councils of State and Ministers, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the Pinar del Rio Provincial Assembly will present end-of-year reports to the ANPP. Flavio Bravo, ANPP president, has declared at a press conference that this will be one of the most important sessions of this most important government organization.

BAHAMAS

1985 BUDGET PASSED WITHOUT OPPOSITION SUPPORT

FL211536 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] After meeting for more than 4 hours yesterday, the government's 1985 budget was passed in the Senate.

The government leader in the Senate and Minister of Education the Honorable Paul Adderley said like previous years roughly 70 percent of this year's budget is under personal revenues. He explained by point to the public treasury, seven of these is paid to public officers.

Mr Adderly says the government has been able to limit the expenditure this year, and so the Minister of Finance, Foreign Minister, the Right Honorable Sir Lynden Pindling should be congratulated in view of the high cost of living, inflation, and the rise in expectation of government's performance.

The leader of opposition Senator Henry Bostwick approached the subject with a high degree of skepticism. He said the budget communication was presented to Parliament by a minister in whom he has no confidence, particularly in finance. Mr Bostwick says the minister of finance is dangerous (?in his office) and he does not know if he can trust him with his money or the peoples money. He said he no longer regards the leader of this country as prime minister.

Mr Bostwick said it is a self-evident fact that we are very much dependent on the United States. Yet, over the last few years, the prime minister has heaped abuse upon abuse on the American people. He charged that the prime minister has caused Bahamians to go through the back door in immigration matters.

At this point there was a burst of outrage from the Government's leader. Mr Addereley stood to his feet and said he was not going to sit and allow Mr Bostwick to tell lies. He charged that Mr Bostwick was misleading the chamber and explained that the immigration problem is the outcome of by-laws made in the U.S. to prevent those without jobs from immigrating to that country. Mr Addereley pointed out that the same laws applied to this country. He said that Mr Bostwick talks about irresponsibility and morality and then gets up and lies.

Turning his attention to the last general election, Mr Bostwick said would never forgive the prime minister for threatening to destroy the opposition. He said the people of this country have every constitutional right to their political opinions and said the FNM will not die easily. All of the government senators voiced support for the buget, members of the opposition for the most part expressed dissatisfaction.

BARBADOS

OPPOSITION DLP WANTS STRONGER POLICE FORCE

FL210148 Bridgetown CANA in English 2224 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 20 Dec, CANA -- Barbados' main opposition group, the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), today urged the government to strengthen the police force capability to fight crime it claimed was reaching epidemic proportions.

It called on the government to provide whatever additional men, materials, scientific and technological assistance is necessary to man, equip, and administer a modern, efficient, and well-ordered police force.

The comments came shortly after Commissioner Orville Durant repeated a request to the government for an additional 250 recruits for his 1,050-strong force to deal with lawlessness and criminality in the society. The call was a clear challenge to the government, which says there is no shortage of manpower. Durant, after complaining that the shortage had adversely affected major programmes aimed at reducing the crime level, announced the arming of some crime fighters and the cancellation of one weekly off-duty day, as well as vacation leave for the Christmas period.

The DLP said it sympathised with the predicament of the commissioner but regretted that Barbados had reached the stage where such decisions had to be taken. That we have reached the stage where the commissioner can call the police to arms is cause for uneasiness among those of us who want to see Barbados retain its propensity for humane law and order, the party said.

GRENADA

CANA REPORTS DISCONTENT OVER SELECTION OF SENATORS

FL220040 Bridgetown CANA in English 2314 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 21, CANA -- There is simmering discontent in the Grenada business and agricultural sectors over the government's selection of senators to represent these interests in the upper chamber of parliament. Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has appointed Charles Laddie McIntyre, president of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce, to represent commerce.

But Chamber sources say the body was not consulted by the government before the appointment of McIntyre, who participated in the campaign of the ruling New National Party (NNP), which won this month's general elections here.

Well-informed sources here said a delegation from the agricultural sector, representing the key banana, cocoa and nutmeg industries, had jointly submitted their nominee for the senate to the government, but this was rejected. Prime Minister Blaize named instead NNP election candidate Norris James as the senator to speak in the chamber for agricultural interests.

The Trades Union Council [TUC] has already voiced strong objection to the appointment of Eric Pierre, general secretary of the Seamen and Waterfront Worker's Trade Union, to represent the labour movement in the senate. The TUC, umbrella body for the trade union movement here, denied that government and the TUC had reached agreement on Pierre's appointment.

The Grenada Constitution calls for the appointment of 10 senators, seven by the government in its own descretion and the other three after the prime minister has consulted the organisations or interests which the prime minister considers the senators should be selected to represent.

CDB APPROVES $1.3 MILLION LOAN, 2 GRANTS

FL221856 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 22, CANA -- The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved just over 1.5 million dollars (U.S.) in loans and grants for Grenada, it has been officially announced here.

A Government Information Service (GIS) release stated that the CDB was giving the island a loan for 1.3 million U.S. dollars to construct 40,000 square feet of factory space at the True Blue Industrial Estate in southern Grenada.

One of the two grants is for 130,000 U.S. dollars to provide the state-owned Grenada development bank with a development expert to assist in the execution of industrial estate projects. The other grant is for 100,000 U.S. dollars to finance a project for steam grazing on Three Rivers in Grenada which is to be implemented in conjunction with the Caribbean Meteorological Institute. The government statement said the financial assistance was approved at the bank's 92nd board of directors meeting, last week.

JAMAICA

SEAGA CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ON ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

FL242218 Bridgetown CANA in English 2121 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 24, CANA -- Prime Minister Edward Seaga, in an economic pep talk has told Jamaicans that the economic hardships they feel this Christmas are inevitable for the future of the country and has warned that the difficulties will continue in the new year.

"I know there will be less than enough to go around in many homes this Christmas," Seaga said in a message. "Nevertheless, all can share the spirit of kindness, tolerance, and generosity towards each other.

The prime minister noted the spending spree normally indulged in at this time of year, which has happened despite the problems. But he added: "...I will tell you frankly as we reflect on our future in this season of renewal -- that there is no other solution but to reduce the scale of what we spend, whether as government or individuals, in the months ahead.

"At the same time we must increase production to bring home, so as to narrow the gap between what we can afford and what we want."

Jamaica is going through a dire economic crunch this year. Under the government-International Monetary Fund (IMF) adjustment programme, the Jamaican dollar has been devalued heavily, prices have rocketed and thousands of public sector employees have lost their jobs.

The over 500 million dollars (one J. dollar -- app. 24 cents U.S.) now in circulation here, though 20 per cent higher than at the same time last year, is buying much less than last Christmas, economists say. Officially, inflation is running at 32 per cent.

However, Seaga said that his economic austerity package is beginning to bear fruit, and advised that patience, work, and discipline will in the long run be the means of success.

The Christmas message from Michael Manley, the leader of the opposition People's National Party (PNP), by contrast, was mild. But Manley did allude to the economic difficulties.

Said Manley: This year I wish to make a very special appeal. While those more fortunate cannot forget their families and friends in providing joy through gifts, I urge that we remember the many who have lost their jobs in recent months, as well as those who have not worked all year.

CANADA TO FUND AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FL251938 Bridgetown CANA in English 1839 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 25, CANA -- Guyana has signed a memorandum of understanding with Canada, which is funding a multimillion dollar airport improvement project covering several Caribbean countries. The upgrading of the one international airport here, Timehri, is earmarked to cost 7.5 million dollars (U.S.).

Head of the Department of International Economic Cooperation, Winston Murray, who signed for Guyana, said the agreement falls under an 80 million dollar (U.S.) grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for upgrading airports in 13 regional states.

The CIDA grant being given to Guyana will improve the airport facilities, runways and in general is going to improve Timehri International Airport, as well as the safety oriented aspects..., Murray said. The runway will be resurfaced and the air traffic control capability enhanced, the government official said. The signing here followed talks between the Guyana Government and a three-member CIDA team.

GFL GETS TRAWLER, NEW PROJECTS WITH JAPAN, CHINA

FL242152 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 24 CANA -- The state-run Guyana Fisheries Limited (GFL) has acquired a new half million dollar trawler and has also entered into agreements with Japan and China to improve the fisheries sector. GFL acquired the trawler Dorado which was built by the Guyana National Engineering Corporation (Guynec) under a contract with an American shipyard.

The acquisition brings to 26 the number of trawlers now owned by the GFL, and the Dorado is the last of five trawlers to be constructed by Guynec for the GFL.

Twenty-two were acquired through a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The GFL recently signed an agreement with the Japanese Government for the provision of a number of fishing boats, support facilities and equipment for the completion of the Demerara fishing port complex project. Guyana and China are also involved in a joint venture project in the fisheries sector and have set up an 8.8 million dollar (U.S.) company called Guyana-China.